

ABSTRACT

A local media cache engine stores content locally for a particular local device. The content is downloaded or copied from other source devices within a network of devices, when  
5 the particular local device is coupled to the network. The content is then available to the local device even when that device is not coupled to the network or when the source device is not coupled to the network. Further, even when the source device of the content is coupled to the network, the local cache provides an easier and faster source of desired content for the local device. The content from the local cache is available to be loaded on a portable device through a  
10 synchronization operation. The local media cache engine also has the capability to automatically search for content from the source devices within the network and download the content to the local cache, based on user defined preferences and criteria.